The method of furrow (and basin) irrigation is a physical phenomenon. It involves switching water back and forth between two furrows at a rate determined by a timer, such that one set of furrows is active while the other remains inactive. This allows water to percolate down to the root zone of the field. The furrow dikes keep the water in the furrow and prevent it from spreading too rapidly, which reduces water loss due to evaporation and runoff. The term "furrow" refers to a narrow trench dug in the soil for the purpose of water distribution. The term "furrow dikes" refers to the low barriers used to contain the water within the furrow.

The map illustrates the distribution of irrigated acreage by counties in Texas. The colors represent different acreage ranges, ranging from none or less than 1,000 acres to over 100,000 acres. The map provides a visual representation of where irrigation is most prevalent and can be used to identify areas with high or low irrigation usage. This information is valuable for agricultural planning and resource allocation.

Figure 4: Distribution of Irrigated Acreage by Counties, 1989